

Application No.: 10/538,709
Amendment and Response dated June 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 20, 2007
Docket No.: 1557-2 PCT/US
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Remarks/Arguments:

Introduction

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, 21-27 and 29-36 are pending. The limitations of claims 2, 11, 20 and 28 have been incorporated into their respective independent claims. Claims 2, 11, 20 and 28 have accordingly been cancelled. Claims 4, 12, 21 and 29 have been amended to perfect antecedent basis. Claims 1, 10 and 19 have also been amended to recite method steps in accordance with standard U.S. practice. No new matter is introduced with these amendments.

Drawings

Figure 4 was objected to as not being labeled as prior art. Replacement Sheet 5/6 is enclosed herewith having Figure 4 labeled as prior art. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to as having an informality or improper antecedent basis. Claim 3 has been non-narrowingly amended to perfect the informality. Claims 12, 21 and 29 have been non-narrowingly amended in a like manner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections are respectfully requested.

Section 101 Rejections

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended to recite an act of producing a concrete, tangible and useful result. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §101 are respectfully requested.

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Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that originally filed claims 2-7, 11-16, 20-25 and 28-33 contain allowable subject matter. The limitations of claims 2, 11, 20 and 28 have been incorporated into their respective independent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 10, 19 and 27 are allowable over the cited art.

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Summary

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10, 19 and 27, and all claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct. This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is therefore respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John S. Sopko", is written over a horizontal line.

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ANNOTATED SHEET
SHOWING CHANGES

5/6

N



FIGURE 5



FIGURE 4

PRIOR ART

legend added